

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, lines 9-11, with the following amended paragraph:

The oligonucleotides used in this study were 20-mers with the sequence GCC CAA GCT GGC ATC CGT CA (SEQ ID NO:1). Two different oligonucleotide were used, one fully thioated and one without any modification (phosphodiester form).

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, lines 13-15, with the following amended paragraph:

For the study was used a small IMAC column with IDA chemistry, the ~~HiTrap~~<sup>TM</sup> HITRAP<sup>TM</sup> Chelating HP column (1 ml volume) (available from Amersham Biosciences AB, Uppsala, Sweden, Prod # 17-0408-01).

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, lines 28-31, with the following amended paragraph:

The oligonucleotides used in this study were the 20-mers described in Example 1 above.

For the study was used a small IMAC column with IDA chemistry, the ~~HiTrap~~<sup>TM</sup> HITRAP<sup>TM</sup> Chelating HP column (1 ml volume) (available from Amersham Biosciences AB, Uppsala, Sweden, Prod # 17-0408-01).

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 16-20, with the following amended paragraph:

The oligonucleotides used in this study were 20-mers with the sequence GCC CAA GCT GGC ATC CGT CA (SEQ ID NO:1). Two different oligonucleotides were used, one fully thioated and one with two of the bonds without modification (phosphodiester form). The phosphodiester bonds were at position 10 and 15 (defined from the 5' end), respectively.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 22-24, with the following amended paragraph:

For the study was used a small IMAC column with IDA chemistry, the ~~HiTrap~~<sup>TM</sup> HITRAP<sup>TM</sup> Chelating HP column (1 ml volume) (Amersham Biosciences, Uppsala, Sweden, Prod # 17-0408-01).  $Zr^{2+}$  was the metal ion studied.

Please insert the attached Sequence Listing into the specification before the claims as required.